



BY BRANT WARD/THE CHRONICLE

the morning, laborers gathered around a contractor's truck near Phoenix; five were hired

Immigration mood vs. labor needs

By Aurelio Rojas
Chronicle Staff Writer

Last of Three Parts

es of new houses rise from the floor, appearing on the horizon ks of the mythological Egyptian at gave this city its name. The ape of cactus and tumbleweed n transformed into a sea of stucco with red-tiled roofs.

lopment is booming at an acre an one of America's fastest-growing traffic on the expanding network lays backs up long before sunrise, motorists straining to cram enough to their workday to keep pace.

ers are in demand, particularly

in construction and other labor-intensive industries. Unions are weak in this right-to-work state and wages are below those of comparable markets. This is fertile ground for immigrants — thousands of them illegal.

"If you want to work, the jobs are here," said Enrique, an immigrant who stood outside a Phoenix convenience store where employers often pick up day laborers. "They need us and we need them."

As efforts to reduce illegal immigra-

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► INS chief Doris Meissner promises tougher enforcement

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Oakland Strike Ends — Teachers OK Contract

By Lori Olszewski
Chronicle East Bay Bureau

Oakland teachers voted overwhelmingly last night to approve their hard-won contract and return to their classrooms today, officially ending the city's long and

ter 8 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Temple, where the teachers had been meeting and casting their ballots since 4 p.m.

The school board voted Monday night to approve the settlement.

day by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans struck down an admissions policy at the University of Texas law school giving preference to blacks and Hispanics, saying the policy was a violation of the Constitution's equal protection guarantee.

"This could affect literally every public institution in America because all of them take racial diversity into account in admissions," University of Virginia law professor John C. Jeffries Jr. said yesterday. "This is incredibly big."

dramatically undercut.

Although the legal ruling has no impact in California, it is certain to stir up the already rolling political and legal debate over affirmative action in the state.

The University of California Board of Regents remains divided over an affirmative action ban passed last summer, barring the use of race and gender as factors in admissions and hiring. And a nationally watched campaign over

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Foreign Species Threaten Bay and Delta, Study Says

Continent's 'most invaded' water system

By David Perlman
Chronicle Science Editor

The ecology of San Francisco Bay and the entire delta is so disrupted by foreign marine animals and plants that the region is now "the most invaded aquatic ecosystem in North America," a new government report warns.

The 300-page report provides the most complete record ever developed on the extraordinary "biological pollution" of the area's shorelines and waterways — and it

is being used to support new congressional legislation designed to stem the damage to the nation's harbors and rivers.

The report was prepared for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by a group of marine biologists headed by Andrew N. Cohen of the University of California's Energy and Resources Group at Berkeley and James T. Carlton of the Williams College maritime center in Mystic, Conn. It will be released in

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The Giants hope a new stadium can do what Jacobs Field did for the Indians. Page D1

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PC shipments rose 26 percent in 1995, says an unpublished report from Dataquest. Page C1

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Yoko Ono grunted and trilled

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INVASION

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Washington on Friday at a national forum sponsored by Senator John Glenn, D-Ohio.

"No shallow water habitat now remains uninvaded by exotic species," the report says, "and in some regions (of the delta) it is difficult to find any native species in abundance."

After four years of research, the team has counted at least 212 species of alien organisms throughout the area. And team members insist that their count "severely underestimates the impact of marine and aquatic invasions" on native fish, birds, land animals and the microscopic organisms that form the base of the food chain.

A major source of the invasion is the contaminated water carried as ballast by cargo ships from around the world and regularly flushed into the bay. Marsh restoration projects by the Army Corps of Engineers have also introduced many foreign species of damaging grasses, the report says.

Among the invasions cited in the report:

■ An Asian clam, *Potamocorbula amurensis*, showed up in the bay only 10 years ago and multiplied so swiftly that a year later, researchers counted 2,000 clams per square foot in some parts of the delta, leaving little food for native organisms.

■ The Chinese mitten crab, *Eriocheir sinensis*, first discovered in the bay in 1992, has already migrated hundreds of miles up the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, burrowing into river banks and levees, destroying rice plants and carrying a parasitic fluke that could cause lung disease in humans.

■ An Atlantic species of salt marsh cordgrass, *Spartina alterniflora*, which was transplanted to bay mud flats in a marsh restoration project during the 1970s, has already transformed at least 1,000 patches of the mud flats, destroying the habitats of native clams and worms that provide critical food supplies for a million migratory shorebirds each winter.

■ A tiny marine sow bug, *Sphaeroma quoyanum*, was dumped into the bay by ships from Australia and New Zealand, and has bored so many tiny holes in the banks of rivers and levees, as well as the soft shoreline rocks of San

SAN FRANCISCO BAY'S UNWELCOME RESIDENTS

Researchers have found at least 212 species of marine animals and plants from all over the world that have invaded the Bay Area's waters and the vast estuary created by the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers. Here are some of them:

■ **Cordgrasses** — native to the East and Gulf coasts; transplanted here from Oregon and Washington.

■ **False Angelwing** — clam species, ranges from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico; apparently reached the Oakland shore in shipments of oysters.

■ **Amur River clam** — native to Asia, from southern China to southern Siberia; transported as larvae in ballast water to the northern parts of San Francisco Bay, where it now carpets the bottom with 16,000 clams per square yard.

■ **Atlantic shipworm (teredo)** — native to the East Coast; damaged wharves, piers, ferry slips and shipyards throughout the bay in the early 1920s.

■ **European green crab** — probably transported with shipments of East Coast lobsters; thrives from the Dumbarton Bridge to Benicia.

■ **Chinese mitten crab** — native to Korea and China; found with their eggs in the South Bay and San Pablo Bay.

■ **Virile crayfish** — native to the Midwestern states; arrived in a shipment of laboratory specimens for Chico State University; digs burrows in rice fields from Yolo to Butte

Source: Marine biologists, Andrew N. Cohen and James T. Carlton

BY JOHN BLANCHARD / THE CHRONICLE

Pablo Bay, that it is probably the major cause of significant erosion damage in those areas.

■ Varied species of introduced mussels and cordgrass may affect the future of endangered clapper rails, which are already victims of introduced Norway rats and red foxes. The birds may eat the mussels but can also be killed by them, and the foreign grasses may provide shelter but also replace the native grasses that are the birds' preferred habitat, says the report.

"While no introduction in the estuary has unambiguously caused the extinction of a native species, introductions have led to the complete regional extirpation of species, have contributed to the global extinction of California freshwater fish and are now strongly contributing to the further demise of endangered marsh birds and mammals," the report says.

Spurred by the 1986 appearance of European zebra mussels in the Great Lakes — a swiftly multiplying invasion that within a few

years fouled ships, blocked water systems throughout the East and Midwest and cost \$5 billion in control efforts — Glenn sponsored a 1990 law that regulated ballast dumping by Great Lakes ships.

On Friday, he will introduce a new bill — the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 — that would set guidelines to limit the dumping of water ballast in all the nation's harbors and rivers, allow the secretary of transportation to regulate dumping if the "voluntary" guidelines are violated, and authorize nearly \$10 million a year for research and development of ballast disposal guidelines and efforts to control fresh invasions.

In an unusual coalition, Glenn's effort is already strongly backed by both the Environmental Defense Fund and the powerful California Association of Water Agencies, which represents the 420 districts and agencies supplying nearly 90 percent of the state's municipal, industrial and agricultural water.

DOLE: Convi

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his Reform Party ticket.

President Clinton also refused to yield the spotlight to Dole as he presented his proposed 1997 get even though the 1996 bill remains unadopted.

But the night still belongs to Dole.

"The first time, I came up," Dole told Associated Press, counting his short-lived race for the presidency in 1980. "The time, I came up short," he said, referring to his bitter loss to George Bush in 1988. "This time, I'm going up full."

Dole's Midwestern sweep is especially significant because the so-called Rust Belt states could be a key battleground in the election fight against Clinton. Indeed, no Republican has ever been elected president without winning Ohio.

Analysts say that for Dole to have to win the industrial Midwest and add it to his strong support in the South and in the Northeast and West, Clinton is expected to do well in his adopted state of California — the largest prize on the electoral map.

Clinton is well aware of the GOP strategy — he is scheduled to visit Columbus and Cincinnati this weekend, his 11th trip there since he was elected.

Ohio Will Be a Battleground

"Ohio is a critical state. One has to do is look at the number of visits by the president that he understands that," said Leland, chairman of the Democratic Party.

Clinton narrowly carried state in 1992 over then-Pres. Bush, a victory that was attributed in large part to voter anger about Republican economic policies.

According to exit polls in four Midwestern states, the issues among voters yesterday were taxes, the budget deficit and the economy.

Yet in an area where protectionist trade policies have resulted in outcries among more than 60 percent say the U.S. trade issue had little to do with how they cast their ballots. That feeling, no doubt, is a reflection of the